

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:03 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Joanne Sanders, Chair
Vernon Brown
Lynn McWhirter
Jackie Nytes
Lincoln Plowman

Absent Members

Lance Langsford
Steve Talley

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 34, 2006 - reappoints Kenneth Almon to the Equal Opportunity
Advisory Board

“Postpone” until April 4, 2006

Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 35, 2006 - reappoints Linda Perdue to the Equal Opportunity Advisory
Board

“Do Pass”

Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 68, 2006 - reappoints John Thompson to the City-County
Administrative Board

“Do Pass”

Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 123, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$13,000 in the 2006 Budget of the
Marion County Commissioners (County General Fund) to provide funding for a contract
with a hearing officer for poor relief assistance appeals

“Do Pass”

Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 164, 2006 - authorizes the Marion County Board Of Commissioners to
dispose of certain real property commonly referred to as "the Kitley property" and "the
3552 Sutherland property", and that the Marion County Treasurer be designated as the
acting disposing agent on the behalf of the Commissioners for the transaction described

“Do Pass as Amended”

Vote: 5-0

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Administration and Finance Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. Chair Joanne Sanders called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Lynn McWhirter and Jackie Nytes. Shortly thereafter Lincoln Plowman arrived. Absent were Lance Langsford and Steve Talley

PROPOSAL NO. 34, 2006 - reappoints Kenneth Almon to the Equal Opportunity Advisory Board

Chair Sanders said that Mr. Almon is unable to attend the meeting and asked for a motion to postpone.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to “Postpone” Proposal No. 34, 2006 until April 4, 2006. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 35, 2006 - reappoints Linda Perdue to the Equal Opportunity Advisory Board

Ms. Perdue said she has served on the board for six years, and in her last term she served on the subcommittee that worked on the rewrite of the human rights ordinance. She said she has enjoyed learning how the board interacts with the department and the Council and would like to remain on the board.

Councillors Brown and Nytes thanked Ms. Perdue for her work on the board and the subcommittee.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the board hears grievances. Ms. Perdue replied in the affirmative and said the number of grievances coming before the board is few; a majority of grievances go through staff.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 35, 2006 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 68, 2006 - reappoints John Thompson to the City-County Administrative Board

Mr. Thompson said as a member of the board he votes, for and approves tremendous amounts of spending by the City as it relates to purchasing and administrative matters. He said he has served on the board for a number of years and really enjoys it.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Nytes, to send Proposal No. 68, 2006 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 123, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$13,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Marion County Commissioners (County General Fund) to provide funding for a contract with a hearing officer for poor relief assistance appeals

Marty Womacks, County Auditor, said the law has changed and the County is now allowed to pay for hearing officers. She said a search has been conducted for someone who is available on a weekly basis. The hearing officer would go to hearings throughout the county every Tuesday to hear testimony from those who were denied assistance from the Trustee. She said the money will be used to pay the hearing officers for his/her time and mileage.

Councillor Sanders asked when the new law was effective. Ms. Womacks said the law has been in effect for a year, and they are just now finding someone to fill the position. Councillor Sanders asked if this position will be provided for in their budget for next year. Ms. Womacks replied in the affirmative and said the transfer is needed because this is a Character 03 expenditure and not Character 01. Councillor Sanders asked if the amount requested will last throughout the year for mileage. Ms. Womacks replied in the affirmative and said they based the amount off the mileage they paid in the past.

Councillor Nytes asked how many hearings have there been. Ms. Womacks said there were 342 hearings county-wide last year. She provided the committee with a layout of all hearings per township (Exhibit A, see Council files). Councillor Nytes asked if it is statute that folks appeal to the County Commissioner rather than the Trustee. Ms. Womacks replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Brown asked if most of the people that are denied by the Trustee seek help elsewhere. Mike Rodman, County Treasurer, said a majority of the hearings are for those that simply did not have the proper documentation and were referred back to the Trustee after obtaining required information. Councillor Brown asked how long the process takes before receiving assistance. Terry Nelson, Chief Deputy Auditor, said a hearing will be held between 10 working days after a request for an appeal has been received. Councillor McWhirter said that in Wayne Township once a hearing officer sets aside their denial, they automatically take that person back and handle the assistance at that time. Ms. Womacks said each Trustee's office has their own guidelines on how they handle the appeal process.

Chair Sanders asked if the County Commissioners are reimbursed for the cost of having appeals. Ms. Womacks said she is unaware of any process. Councillor McWhirter said she believes it would be a conflict of interest to have the Trustee to pay for the person who does the appeal for the client.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter to send Proposal No. 123, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 164, 2006 - authorizes the Marion County Board Of Commissioners to dispose of certain real property commonly referred to as "the Kitley property" and "the 3552 Sutherland property", and that the Marion County Treasurer be designated as the acting disposing agent on the behalf of the Commissioners for the transaction described

Mr. Rodman said the Kitley property was part of the Marion County Home and is currently farm land that has been leased out for \$5,445 annually. He said the land is valuable and distributed the appraisal for the land (Exhibit B, see Council files). Paul Smith, Real Estate Manager for the Parks Department, said as a department they have identified large wooden lots throughout the county. He said the Kitley property is a significant piece of property that the Parks Department has had on their long term plan. Mr. Smith said the wood land is about 15 acres in size and is to remain a wood lot for nature trails.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the County is giving the 15 acres to the Parks Department. Mr. Rodman said the Council has the authority to decide what should be done. He said the property could be sold as is or sell just the non- wooded area. Mr. Rodman said what drove their decision was the economics; this is a valuable piece of land and can add a considerable amount of money to the General Fund if the land is sold. Councillor McWhirter asked if the passage of this proposal will allow the County Commissioners to decide on something and then bring the final decision back to the Council. Mr. Rodman said his understanding is if the Council approves this proposal, it will allow the Commissioners to sell the ground.

[Clerk's note: Councillor Plowman arrived at 5:40 p.m.]

Chair Sanders asked for clarification on the amount of land that would be given to the Parks Department. Mr. Smith said there are 60 acres in total; 45 would be sold, and 15 acres would be transferred to the Parks Department at no cost, if that is the will of the Council.

Councillor McWhirter asked what township this property is in and if contact has been made with the neighborhood associations. Cindy Land, Treasurer's Office, said the property is in Warren Township, Councillor Langsford's district. She said they have contacted the Township Administer on this property, and once the County is given permission to sell this property they will advertise and give proper notice to the neighborhood associations. Ms. Land said the County needs to get permission first to sell the property.

Councillor Brown asked what exactly the will is of the Council. Chair Sanders said technically the will of the Council is giving the County Commissioners the right to do whatever. Ms. Land said the Mayor has to sign anything they do, and if the Mayor does not agree he can stop the transaction.

Councillor Nytes said she would be interested in some discussion on all of the land being put into park land. She said land that the City owns is cheaper than land that someday has to be purchased. Councillor Nytes asked if anyone is looking into this discussion. Mr. Rodman said that has not been discussed. He said the focus was on a way to raise money for the General Fund.

Councillor Plowman said park land is hard to receive right now, and maybe a possibility could be to keep the land until it is decided what the best course of action would be.

Councillor Brown said he is in favor of the 15 acres going to the Parks Department; however, he is also in favor of the county raising some funds for the General Fund.

Mr. Rodman said the Commissioners would be willing to discuss other options for the land.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the Parks Department has enough funds to do something with the land. Mr. Smith asked to what period of time she is referring. Councillor McWhirter said within five years. Mr. Smith said that most likely the department will be able to develop the land.

Ms. Womacks said if the land is sold the property would be on the tax rolls.

Mr. Rodman said the Commissioners are in the process of acquiring the Sutherland property due to delinquent taxes. He said the building has been abandoned, and there are some environmental issues that may result in less money than the appraisal.

Councillor Nytes asked if the Parks Department would have an interest in this land. Mr. Smith said they have not discussed this property. Councillor Nytes urged the Commissioners to give considerations on both of these properties having some future in park land.

Chair Sanders said a technical amendment needs to be made due to the wrong address on the proposal.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to "Amend" Proposal No. 164, 2006, to read 3252 Sutherland throughout the proposal. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to send Proposal No. 164, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation, with the understanding that the Treasurer will consult with the Parks Department on each property. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Administration and Finance Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Sanders, Chair
Administration and Finance Committee

JS/as

